

The Body of
B. Franklin, Printer,
Like the Cover of an old Book,
Its Contents torn out,
And Stript of its Lettering & Gilding,
Lies here, Food for Worms. —
But the Work shall not be lost;
For it will, as he believ'd, appear once more
In a new and more elegant Edition
Corrected and improved
By the Author. —

Given by B. Franklin to Sam^l Morris
August 31 1776 —

B. It is his own hand writing —

Benjamin Franklin's Own Epitaph in His Own Hand

This copy of one of the most famous epitaphs in the English language was written out for Samuel Morris in Philadelphia and presented to him on August 31, 1776. Franklin, often termed "the first civilized American," found at least a few brief moments to indulge his sense of humor and whimsey.

Lent to The Freedom Train by Colonel Richard Gimbel